



1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

August 13, 2019

To: Governor's Office, Sheena Wilson, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Broadwater County Commissioners, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

Janice Miller, Last Chance Audubon Society, P.O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59624

Sacajawea Audubon Chapter, P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

Robert L. Sanders, Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 183, Elliston, MT 59728

Abby Dresser, Ducks Unlimited, 240 Jackson Lane, Belgrade, MT 59714

Randy Schmoltdt, Ducks Unlimited, 1024 Missoula Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Jeff Sturm, 3445 York Rd, Helena, MT 59602

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Jack Jones, 3014 Irene St., Butte, MT 59701

Mark D. Natale, 46 Broadwater Rd., Townsend, MT 59644

Mary Goggins, 51 Ranch Co., P.O. Box 1081, Superior, MT 59872-1081

Paul C Hegness – Trustee, 19 Lochmoor Ln, Newport Beach, CA 92660-5124

Townsend Timber Inc., P.O. Box 220, Townsend, MT 59644-0220

RY Timber Inc., P.O. Box 220, Townsend, MT 59644-0220

Beth I. Lamping, 5926 Scott Ln., Helena, MT 59602-8508

Francesca Delger, 116 Delger Rd., Townsend, MT 59644

Sullivan MCS Ranch LLC, 208 Marble Dr., Evanston, WY 82930-2112

Douglas R. and Peggy A. Lienemann, P.O. Box 1226, Townsend, MT 59644

Nancy S. Delger, 258 Wilcox Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828-9775

Jeffry Schritz, 704 F. St., Townsend, MT 59644-2718

James Thompson, 326 Gurnett Creek Rd, Townsend, MT 59644

Boyd K. Iverson Cattle Co., 3626 MT Hwy 284, Townsend, MT 59644

Harley J. Westling, 25 Pepper Lane, Wilsall, MT 59086-9418

Jim C. Stuckey, P.O. Box 187, Townsend, MT 59644

Robert J. Graveley, 2 Riley Rd, Townsend, MT 59644
Judy Rowland, Rowland Farm LLC, 120 Lower Ray Creek Rd., Townsend, MT 59644
Richard Vetsch, 120 Lower Ray Creek Rd, Townsend, MT 59644
Gary & Jean Welch, 47 Riley Rd, Townsend, MT 59644
Chuck Hahn, Hahn Ranch, 7996 Highway 287, Townsend, MT 59644
Eric Hamilton, Hamilton Honey Bees LLC, P.O. Box 675, Townsend, MT 59644
Steve Campbell, Double C Farms, LLC, 3595 Hwy 284, Townsend, MT 59644
Jeff Marks, 3643 Hwy 284 Townsend, MT 59644
Leonard Lambott, 8715 U.S. Hwy 287, Toston, MT 59643-9603
Jason K. and Karen Noyes, Toston, MT 59643-9614
Kelly Ingalls, Round Grove Ranch, 3436 Highway 284, Townsend, MT 59644
Round Grove Ranch Co., 642 Monroe Ave, Helena, MT 59601-2664
Allen McNeal, 101 Lower Gurnett Creek Rd, Townsend, MT 59644-9633
Cheryl M. Menard, P.O. Box 933, Townsend, MT 59644-0933
Kathleen M. Roadarmel, P.O. Box 128, Townsend, MT 59644-0128
Casey C. Matheson, 63 Centerville Rd, Townsend, MT 59644-9605
Terry L. Obal, 65 Centerville Rd, Townsend, MT 59644-9605
Leroy W. & Stephen R. Mayhood, 24020 Production Circle, Bonita Springs, FL, 34135-7055
Mark Ehlke, P.O. Box 178, Townsend, MT 59644-0178
Taryn Preston, Natural Resource Specialist, Canyon Ferry Field Office, 7700 Canyon Ferry Rd, Helena, MT 59602
David Nunn, Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, Helena Ranger District, 2880 Skyway Dr., Helena, MT 59602

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the potential use of prescribed fire as a habitat management tool on the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area (CFWMA). Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is proposing to utilize prescribed fire on the Canyon Ferry WMA as needed to improve wildlife habitat conditions for waterfowl, upland game birds (primarily pheasant) and big game (primarily white-tailed deer and moose). Prescribed fire would be utilized to revitalize decadent stands of dense nesting cover and other areas of herbaceous vegetation, improve the structure of decadent stands of cattails and bulrushes or to help kill cattails if needed to create more open water in ponds, and to regenerate decadent stands of willows and sprouting shrubs. Prescribed fire may also be used to at least temporarily remove willows and other dense stands of brush from pond shorelines in areas to improve waterfowl access to adjacent nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Some mechanical treatment (slashing) of vegetation might occur in some areas prior to any prescribed burn to help manage/control the prescribed burn.

Prescribed fire would be used as needed around the Canyon Ferry WMA and as time, conditions, manpower and funding allows. The location and amount of acreage to be burned in any one year (if any) would vary on an annual basis. Prescribed burns would typically occur during the dormant season in late winter to early spring (late February – early April) as conditions allow, unless it was deemed that another time frame was more appropriate to achieve management objectives. Prescribed fire would not be used to burn irrigated agricultural areas that are cropped by agricultural lessees. Burn plans and prescribed fires for habitat improvement on the CFWMA would be done by USFS and/or DNRC (Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation) fire personnel.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites you to comment on the attached proposal. Public comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. September 13, 2019. Comments should be sent to the following:

Attention: Adam Grove
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 998
Townsend, MT 59644

Or e-mailed to adgrove@mt.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Deleray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Deleray
Region Three Supervisor

Attachment: